

THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASS'N. INC.

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

31st Year ARRL
Affiliated.

SEPTEMBER 1979

ZERO BEAT

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	LARRY SOLTZ	WB1CJH	567-3444
VICE-PRESIDENT	RON BEAUCHEMIN	WB1ETS	593-9852
SECRETARY	ANDY BOUCHARD	WB1BZW	786-2301
TREASURER/			
ZERO BEAT EDITOR	PAUL KRESS	WALZKT	568-8291

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1978-80

WB1FIP Moe Beauchemin, 56 Acrebrook Dr., Chicopee, Mass 01020
K1BE Jeffrey J. Duquette, P.O. Box 346, Southwick, Mass 01077
WB1EMN Al Sittard, 37 Dunn Street, Chicopee, Mass 01020

1979-81

N1AFK Ollie Passburg, 37 Knollwood Dr, East Longmeadow, Ma 01028
WA1YYK Jack LaMonaco, 213 Shoemaker Ln, Agawam, Mass 01001
WA1ZEV Steve Shore, 20 Valleyview Dr., Bloomfield, Ct 06002
KA1CRG Ray Morin, Brookhaven Dr, East Longmeadow, Mass 01028
K1ZQB Jack Dumont, 20 Surrey Lane, Chicopee, Mass 01020

FIRST MEETING:

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7th

DIPOLE

TOPIC: WIRE ANTENNAS

SLOPER

SPEAKER: ART ZAVARELLA, W1KK

INVERTED VEE

Art will tell us all his secrets about wire
antennas and simple do-it-yourself tuners.

YAGI

COLINEAR

TUNERS

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, FEEDING HILLS, MASS
MEETING STARTS PROMPTLY AT 8 pm

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fellow Hampden County members, This summer has been a very noteworthy one for our club. Former editor of Zero Beat, Jeff Duquette, K1BE, had one of his articles published: A six page article about the Hampden County Radio Assoc., complete with pictures, appeared in the August issue of Ham Radio Horizons. Another of his articles on last year's Science Fiction Happening weekend demonstration at the Springfield Museum was confirmed for publication by World Radio and Q.S.T. Our participation on Field Day at the Agawam High School was covered by Channel 22 News. I had a half page story and picture in the Springfield Daily News relating to the first "eye ball" with a family of missionaries that I have been phone patching for between them in Brazil and their family in East Longmeadow for two years. It is important that our story be told to the public at every opportunity and Hampden County is doing it.

By this time, your board has met and planned what we hope to be a good year with informative programs to interest everyone. Refer to your Zero Beat for program details for each meeting. Looking forward to seeing you for an "eyeball" at our first meeting in September.

Larry WB1CJH

EDITOR'S CORNER

The end is the beginning

As I begin preparation for my first issue of Zero Beat, I cannot help but reflect back on how I got here. I reflect back on the past few years and how each time I achieved the end of a goal it turned out to be the beginning of something new. And so it is with the Hampden County Radio Association. The end of one year is the beginning of the next, the end of one editor is the beginning of the next. And so it is with each and every thing and each and everyone. At some point each of us has achieved a deserved end and so we must one and all have a new beginning. Perhaps this is the year you will achieve your next level in ham radio, be it your generally, advanced or extra "ticket." Perhaps this is the year you will help a potential ham aquire his novice ticket. Perhaps this is the year you will share your skills and help organize a meeting or otherwise make a contribution of self to your club. Perhaps this is the year you will be called on to provide emergency communications. Fortunately in this great hobby of ours a total end or the finality of complete achievement is not possible. The achievement of 13 wpm code speed is the foundation on which much higher proficiency can be achieved. The end of tube type receivers and transmitters was the beginning of solid state rigs. The completion of one homebrew project is the start of many more.

Let's all review the ends we have achieved and begin today on our personal improvement in the coming year.

SEPTEMBER ZERO BEAT

Here are the addresses of various HCRA activities:

ZERO BEAT

c/o Paul Kress
216 Eastwood Dr.
Westfield, Mass 01085
Want ads are free for
members; articles,
comments, activities
always solicited.

QSL BUREAU

Hampden County RA
P.O. Box 216
Forest Park Station
Springfield, Mass 01108
Keep envelopes on file
for all your calls; queries
etc, should be sent here.

TREASURER

Paul Kress WA1ZKT
216 Eastwood Dr.
Westfield, Mass 01085
To join the club
or renew membership.
\$7.00 per year

PRESIDENT

Larry Soltz
69 Hazardville Rd.
Longmeadow, Mass 01006

To volunteer, complain,
suggest; general club
business.

CLUB STATION W1NY

c/o Art Zavarella
1700 Main St.
Agawam, Mass 01001

For our club QSL,
sase please.

HCRA "WORKED 25 MEMBERS" AWARD

C. Norman Peacor
Country Club Dr
Monson, Mass 01057
QSL's not required.
Send the call, time,
date, freq and one of
your own QSLs for collection.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Jean, K1IJV is writing the YL column in QST again. Very well written, too...Ham Radio Horizons printed the article about the HCRA in the August issue...Larry, WB1CJH had an eyeball with the Brazilian missionaries he's phone-patched for the past year. Great newspaper story about it in the Daily News too...Our June banquet was a ball! WB1ABL won the tri-band beam, WB1CAC won the F9FT... The QSL Bureau picnic is September 8th...The NOBARC hamfest was well attended by HCRA members. WA1DNB won the Rohn tower...See you all at the ARRL N.E. Convention September 21-22 in Hartford. Make sure you attend the ARRL Forum... Jack Sonocki, WB1GTR won the "Freedom Foundation" Award. FB, Jack...Field Day at Agawam High was a blast! Many of our newcomers were turned on and can't wait til next year. K1WB, KA1AVM, WA1ZKT, AC1T, K1EPI, W1KK, WB1BZW, Lucien Dugas, K1BUB, KA1AVJ, N1FJ, WA1YYW, KA1CRG, N1AFK, WA1ECR, Bill Shannon, WA1CYK, Kurt, and WB1GLZ were some of our members who operated or stopped by...Tell your friends about the annual auction on October 5th! Put the word out on the info nets...

HCRA Worked 25 Members Award for June 1979:

WB1ABF Heather Hall VP2MCU
W1JP Bill Hall VP2MCV

WA1YYW Rich Melbourne
8P6EZ Don Gleason

WANT AD

FOR SALE: Kimball Swinger Organ Model 690. Easy Play.
\$1800 new. Sell \$700 or best offer.
Larry WB1CJH 567-3444

FOR SALE: YAESU CPU2500RK 2M Rig with Programmable
Mike. \$400. Larry WB1CJH 567-3444

The following letter was sent to Bob and Eunie Gordon by a former president of the club after reading the article in Ham Radio Horizons and is included here for all those that knew Bill:

Dear Bob and Eunice:

The article about HCRA in the August issue of "Ham Radio Horizons" brought back a lot of fond memories. It was good to hear about you, Tom Barrett, Art Zavarella, Dick Stevens and some of my other friends from the good old days in Springfield. A lot of time has passed and many things have happened during the intervening years. I left New England in 1955 and, in retrospect, it's almost incredible that twenty-four years have passed. I am now retired, having spent many years in my chosen profession of photography. I left Springfield, or more accurately, East Longmeadow, to take a job with a firm in Toledo, Ohio. In 1962, I moved to Louisville to supervise photographic operations at GE's Appliance Park, a huge complex employing 19,000 people and one which kept me pretty busy, which made the time pass all too quickly.

I was able to recognize several familiar faces in the annual banquet photo in HRH. I wonder if I may have possibly taken the picture, since I am not in it and I believe I attended just about all the banquets.

I have seen the names of several of my good friends in Silent Keys in QST and it is a saddening experience. I have also lost a number of newer friends, ones I've made since leaving W1-land, most of them members of Midears, of which you may have heard, and of which I have been honored to serve two terms as president. Midears (the Midwest Amateur Radio Service) at one time had more than 600 members in 23 states. The service has declined somewhat in recent years, what with the popularity of two meters and bad band conditions on 40, where the service operates on 7258 KHZ daily. We are hoping for a resurgence of activity on the service in the near future. Please remember me to Tom Barrett and any of my other friends you may run across and tell them I think about them often. I was in Newington several years ago, discussing the possibility of becoming Communications Manager at ARRL. It didn't pan out - but that's another story.

I hope you are both well and happy. I could go on and on but I didn't wish to bore you any longer. I am enclosing a couple of photos. I still have my big amplifier (push-pull 250 THS) tuned grid-tuned plate or SSB, but have been using my SB220 for about three years. I hope one day to get back to New England for a visit, possibly this fall, and I'll be sure to look you up. My kindest regards, 73's & 88's.

Sincerely,

William G. Blankenship, Jr.
6709 Green Meadow Court
Louisville, Kentucky 40207

July 16, 1979

THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
1979 - 1980

September 7, 1979	Antennas	Art Zavarella, W1KK, will be our featured speaker and will discuss simple do-it-yourself wire antennas that work. Art had a colinear wire antenna on field day that was the envy of us all.
October 5, 1979	Auction	The inimitable Jeff Duquette, K1BE, will be the auctioneer at this year's fast moving auction. Jeff promises that the merchandise will be of the highest quality.
November 2, 1979	Working DX	Ken Bolin, W1NG, of Brookfield, CT will tell us how he has worked every country in the world without a linear amplifier.
December 7, 1979	Xmas Party	The HCRA and the MTARA will again combine their talents to bring us a Christmas party that will equal or surpass last year's party. More details on this in the next issue.
January 4, 1980	WARC	Bruce Johnson from the ARRL will be the featured speaker at our meeting in January, reporting on the outcome of the WARC. Bruce will tell us about new frequencies available to us and other information that will not publicly appear until the February QST is published.
February 1, 1980	Computers	Computers will be viewed a little differently than last year. Two vendors with their computers programmed for amateur radio will show us what can be done.
March 7, 1980	NBVM	George Woodward, W1RN, will be the featured speaker from the ARRL discussing narrow band voice modulation. This should be a very important meeting.

April 4, 1980	RTTY	This will be a first for our club in a long time - a demonstration on RTTY.
May 2, 1980	Flea Market	The annual flea market is always a highlight of our year.
June 6, 1980	Banquet	Once again, the year will come to an end with the annual banquet. Details will be made available in the spring.

NEW ENGLAND NOVICE NET

A traffic and training net for those interested in learning to handle traffic on CW meets daily at 6:15 P.M. on 3720 mHz. This is the oldest training net in New England and is presently under the direction of Net Manager Tom Fry, WB1CFF. Tom will provide assistance to those joining the net for the first time in the form of net directories and other aids. Speeds are 8-10 wpm except on Tuesday and Thursday when the net operates at 18 wpm.

Tom has personally extended an invitation to one and all to join the net even if you are not a novice.

TIDBITS

John, WB1DLE passed his advanced....Mac, K1MAL made DXCC... Good picture of WB1ABF in August QST with a blurb about the MTARA. FB, Heather...Art, W1KK has been nominated for Section Communication Manager. You'll be replacing a good man, Art....Henry, KA1AVM passed his general, Bill Shannon made technician...

ANNUAL AUCTION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER FIFTH

8PM

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SPREAD THE WORD AND INVITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS!!

DX QSLs, QSLs, QSLs

Now, coming and going, they're easier for ARRL members.

By R. L. White,* W1CW

"T

NX QSO OM - PSE QSL VIA
BURO . . ."

"I've done it! I've finally worked some real DX! And will I QSL? You better believe it, especially for a country all the way across the ocean. But 'via Buro'? We landed men on the moon and a vehicle on Mars and this guy thinks we're still using animals to carry the mail?

"Anyway, I'll send him a card direct with an envelope made out to me with a stamp on the envelope, just as I do when I work a new state. If I tell him he's my very first QSO with his country, that should get to him and he's sure to QSL. Let me see now, I'll need to borrow a foreign *Callbook*; my U.S. one won't help much. And I guess my putting a U.S. stamp on the s.a.s.e. won't do him any good either. Maybe I could send him a dollar bill, but I heard that some foreign countries come down hard when they find someone with foreign money. Sure don't want to get him in trouble; he might not QSL. Got it! I'll send him some International Reply Coupons. According to the fine print on them, each one can be exchanged for the postage required to mail a first-class letter to almost any country in the world.

"The *Callbook* has a listing of the number of IRCs needed to equal what an airmail reply for my card will cost him. But wait just a doggone minute. I heard a fellow on the air just the other day saying that he'd gone to the post office to get some IRCs and they now cost 42¢ each! Let me see now, two IRCs, two envelopes, my airmail postage to send him my card and the IRCs and envelope . . . that's over \$1 for a single QSL! I'll go broke before I get halfway to making my DXCC. There just has to be a cheaper way"

Don't go broke. There is indeed a cheaper way, and the DX station said it: via the QSL bureau.

A Hobby in Themselves

To some amateur operators QSL cards are a hobby in themselves. The

*Manager, ARRL QSL Bureau

colors, the pictures, the handwriting and the names of countries stir the mind to visions of faraway places and recollections of past contacts. Some people can blow their minds and trip out just going through a batch of QSLs. Then there are those to whom a QSL is a means to an end, the achievement of a goal or an award.

There are some amateur operators who "brag" about never having sent out any QSLs but who claim to have received enough QSLs to make DXCC. The percentages don't favor that happening. For an amateur in the U.S. or Canada, who wants to get QSLs (for whatever reason), that amateur should be prepared to send QSLs.

But, the filling out of QSLs, finding addresses, addressing envelopes, stuffing envelopes and mailing become unpleasant chores that take time that could be

spent in operating. Operating is the name of the game. Thus, in order to support the objective of keeping amateurs on the air, the membership of ARRL has expressed an interest in reducing the work (and cost) of sending DX QSL cards and the ARRL Board of Directors, at its July, 1976, meeting, directed the general manager to implement an overseas distribution system, to be operational by January 1, 1977. The object: To allow an ARRL member to send DX cards with a minimum of cost and work on behalf of the individual member. In compliance with the Board's directive, the ARRL-Membership Overseas QSL Service will be operational starting November 1, 1976.

Here's How It Works

Each month, every member of the ARRL (except family and sightless

Table 1
Countries for which the ARRL-Membership Overseas QSL Service may be used.

Algeria	Fiji Islands	Kenya	Peru
Antarctica	Finland	Korea	Philippine Islands
Argentina	France	Kuwait	Poland
Austral/	French Oceania	Liberia	Portugal
	French Antarctic Lands	Liechtenstein	Puerto Rico
Australia	German Democratic Republic	Luxembourg	Rhodesia
Austria	Germany, Federal	Madeira Islands	Romania
Azores	Republic of	Malagasy Republic	Rwanda
Bahama Islands	Ghana	Malawi	Samoa (American)
Bahrain	Gibraltar	Malaysia	Senegal
Barbados	Great Britain (or British Commonwealth)	Maldives	Seychelles
Belgium	Greece	Malta	Singapore
Bermuda	Greenland	Mariana Islands	South Africa
Bolivia	Guam	Marshall Islands	Spain
Brazil	Guantanamo Bay	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Bulgaria	Guatemala	Mexico	St. Vincent
Burundi	Haiti	Midway Islands	Surinam
Canada	Honduras	Monaco	Sweden
Canal Zone	Hong Kong	Mongolia	Switzerland
Capa Verde Islands	Hungary	Morocco	Syria
Chile	Iceland	Mozambique	Tanzania
Colombia	India	Nauru	Thailand
Cook Islands	Iran	Netherlands	Trinidad and Tobago
Costa Rica	Ireland	Netherlands Antilles	Turkey
Cuba	Israel	New Zealand	Uruguay
Cyprus	Italy	Nicaragua	U.S.S.R.
Czechoslovakia	Ivory Coast	Nigeria	Vatican
Denmark	Jamaica	Norway	Venezuela
Dominican Republic	Japan	Oman	Virgin Islands
Ecuador	Johnston Island	Pakistan	Western Samoa
El Salvador	Jordan	Panama	Yugoslavia
Ethiopia		Papua New Guinea	Zaire
Faroe Islands		Paraguay	Zambia

members) is mailed a copy of *QST*. The address label on the wrapper of *QST* is the member's "ticket" for use of the Overseas QSL Service. Twelve times per year, an ARRL member may send as many QSL cards as he wants for amateurs overseas in the countries shown in Table 1. With each mailing the member must include the address label from the current copy of *QST*, \$1 (check or money order) and an S.A.S.E. QSLs must be presorted by prefix. Nothing but the cards, address label, \$1 and S.A.S.E. may be included in the package. Wrap the package securely and address it to ARRL-Membership Overseas QSL Service, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

"Family" members of ARRL, to

whom only one copy of *QST* is sent, may send cards in the same package but must include \$1 for each member sending cards and indicate that the *QST* address label includes a "family membership."

Sightless members, who do not receive a copy of *QST*, need only include \$1 with a note indicating that the cards are from a sightless member and an S.A.S.E. Associate (unlicensed) members may use the Overseas QSL Service to send SWL reports to overseas amateur stations in the countries shown in Table 1. No cards will be sent to individual QSL managers.

A once-per-week mailing is scheduled to the countries listed in Table 1. Headquarters sincerely hopes that this

Membership Service will be fully used by the membership. Keep us busy, serving you.

DX QSLs Via ARRL to DX

1. Consult Table 1 for countries to which cards will be sent by the ARRL QSL Service.
2. Arrange QSLs alphabetically by prefix (F, G, HA, HI, I, JA, 3A2, 4X4, and so on).
3. Detach your mailing label from the current copy of *QST*. Make out an S.A.S.E.
4. Write a check for \$1, wrap the bundle securely, and mail to:
ARRL-Membership Overseas QSL Service
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111.
5. Associate, blind and family members should refer to the text for special provisions.

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION
PAUL KRESS WA1ZKT
216 EASTWOOD DRIVE
WESTFIELD, MASS 01085



NOV 79 E ARL

AC1T

SEPTEMBER ZERO BEAT

FIRST CLASS